

City attraction that awakens at night

► Some 10,000 visitors daily enjoy vast variety of local delicacies, that include seafood, fruits and sweets

KUALA LUMPUR: Jalan Alor at Bukit Bintang is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the federal capital that has an “ordinary” look and feel during the day.

The 500m street is like any other commercial area, with constant honking, engine roars and the hustle and bustle of busy streets in a city.

However, the street, which was once dubbed a “Red Light District”, starts getting busy after sunset as tourists and locals flood the area every night.

Tourists visit the street, decorated with neon lights, for its beauty during the night and also to indulge in a variety of local delicacies, especially seafood that are sold at reasonable prices, earning Jalan Alor its reputation as a seafood paradise.

Stalls offering fruits such as Musang King durian and vendors selling sweets are also popular choices for visitors. The street, which hosts 100 stalls and 50 restaurants, attracts nearly 10,000 visitors every day.

Seafood trader Ah Ling, 55, who has been operating for 32 years in Jalan Alor, said there have been various changes in the area, the

most noticeable being the condition of the streets, cleanliness and the increased number of visitors.

“The roads here used to be very bad, with many potholes. But now, they are much better since the government repaved them and added more street lamps.

“The pipes have also been replaced and the cleanliness of the street is better maintained. The government did this eight years ago before Covid-19,” said Ah Ling, who runs her business with her husband and owns six shops.

She said the number of restaurants and stalls is increasing, and the street is made more lively with entertainers such as buskers.

“This situation is much different now. The place was quieter back then. There were not many shops when I first opened my stall (in 1992) but since 20 years ago, people from all corners of the world started visiting the street.”

She also said her regular customers include a man from Holland, who has been enjoying her seafood for 28 years.

Jalan Alor Hawkers Association secretary Simon Ang said visitors typically start flocking to the street



Decorated facades in Jalan Alor adds to its allure, making it a popular tourist attraction. – **BERNAMAPIC**

at 6pm, adding that safety is a major concern, especially over pickpocketing cases.

“The problem could be reduced with the installation of CCTV and the presence of People’s Volunteer Corps personnel, but we need proper documentation from Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).”

Ang, who also runs a food shop in the area, said an application was submitted to DBKL in

August last year, Bernama reported.

He also said various community activities such as a Chap Goh Mei parade were also held at the street and an arch made of LED lights is set to be built across Jalan Alor.

“We received the approval to build the arch in 2020 from DBKL but now, we are thinking of upgrading to new technology (LED) to make the place more attractive.”

A tourist, Firma Winda, 24, said

she learnt about the excitement of the street through TikTok and came to experience it herself.

Firma, who is from Riau, said she would like to try the South Korean and Chinese fruit snack called *Tanghulu*, which became famous on social media recently.

“I want to try unique street food. So, I searched on TikTok and found Jalan Alor. This is my first visit to the street.”